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McCrillis (William H.) Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Creator:	McCrillis, William H., 1813-1889
Title:	William H. McCrillis Papers
ID:	SpC MS 0332
Date [inclusive]:	1830-1982
Date [bulk]:	1840-1912 (bulk)
Physical Description:	4 linear feet (4 boxes)
Physical Description:	4 ledgers
Physical Location:	
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The William McCrillis papers deal primarily with his activities as an owner of large amounts of timberland in northern Maine. The collection also includes materials of his sister, Harriet Griswold and of members of her family.

Preferred Citation

William H. McCrillis Papers, SpC MS 0332, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biographical Note

William McCrillis, the son of Dr. John McCrillis, was born on November 4, 1813, in Georgetown, Maine. He studied law in Bangor and began his own practice there in 1834. He soon established a large and profitable law business and was appointed County Attorney for Penobscot County in 1838. In that same year he was elected to the Maine House of Representatives; he also served in the House in 1859 and 1860. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860. He was the owner of many timberlands in Maine and at the time of his death in 1889 was probably the largest individual landowner of this type of property in the state. With others, he was also an incorporator of several dam companies

in Maine, including the Katahdin Dam Company, the East Branch of Pleasant River Dam Company, the Godfrey Falls Dam Company, and the Heron Lake Dam Company.

At his death, McCrillis's entire estate passed to his sister, Harriet S. Griswold, also of Bangor. By 1923, the land holdings were owned by her grandchildren, Margaret Griswold Locke, Merrill Griswold, Roger Griswold, and Anna Griswold, and organized into the McCrillis Land Association, a privately held Massachusetts business trust with the primary purpose of investing in Maine timberland. George T. Carlisle and Henry Prentiss and their successors, Prentiss and Carlisle Company, managed its operations. The Land Association now has two wholly owned subsidiaries, McCrillis Timberlands, Inc., which holds timberland, and McCrillis Corporation, which holds recreational land.

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Scope and Contents of the Records

The William McCrillis papers deal primarily with his activities as an owner of large amounts of timberland in northern Maine. The collection also includes materials of his sister, Harriet Griswold and of members of her family. The papers were arranged and re-folded by staff in Special Collections at an earlier date and much of that arrangement and many folder titles have been retained. The papers are arranged in two series:

Series I : Papers of William H. McCrillis and Series II : Papers of heirs of William H. McCrillis. Series I has six sub-series: Correspondence, etc.; Papers from law practice; Personal finances and miscellaneous personal material; Records of various business ventures; Deeds; and McCrillis lumber business. Series II has two sub-series: Business records and Papers of Harriet Griswold.

Series I begins with several folders of correspondence of William McCrillis, 1840s-1870s, especially with the Hinckley and Egery Iron Company of Bangor. This is followed by materials from McCrillis's law practice, 1863-1875, and information about his personal finances, especially the amounts of taxes paid, 1874-1890. Several folders of records of directors of various dam companies reflect his activities as an incorporator of these companies.

The two largest sub-series in Series I contain information about McCrillis's extensive land holdings in Maine. The sub-series containing deeds is arranged chronologically and includes information on his holdings in Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington and Hancock Counties. The last sub-series, McCrillis lumber business, is arranged alphabetically by county, then by township and range. This sub-series contains information about McCrillis land holdings in Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Somerset Counties. Material includes deeds, maps, reports, surveys, financial information, correspondence, etc., about each township and its lumber. Many of these folders also contain documents dating after William McCrillis's death; they are included in his papers because they were started during his tenure.

Series II contains miscellaneous business records of the timberland business after McCrillis's death and includes correspondence, deeds and papers of Henry Prentiss, manager of McCrillis land holdings, as

well as materials of the Griswold family. The collection ends with papers of Harriet Griswold, especially information about her estate.

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Conservation Note

The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. Documents have been surface cleaned as needed and metal fasteners removed.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Forest landowners -- Maine
- Lumbering -- Maine
- Bangor (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Maps
- Reports
- Deeds
- Mortgage deeds
- Land surveys
- McCrillis, William H., 1813-1889
- Griswold, Harriet S.
- Prentiss, Henry M. (Henry Mellen), 1840-1906
- Hinckley & Egery Iron Co. (Bangor, Me.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Papers of William H. McCrillis

Sub-series 1 : Correspondence, etc.

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, notes, balance sheets, 1866-1875, 1906	Box 1
	Folder 1
Notes, 1871	Folder 2
Correspondence and accounts with Hinckley and Egery and Thomas D. Egery, 1840s - 1870s	Folder 3
Correspondence and accounts with Hinckley and Egery and Thomas D. Egery, 1850s - 1870s	Folder 4

Sub-series 2 : Papers from law practice

Title/Description	Instances
Legal notes and memoranda, 1860s	Box 1 Folder 5
Court transcripts, 1863	Folder 6
Correspondence, schedule, map, spruce and pine account, 1863-1878	Folder 7
Jewett bankruptcy, 1872-1875	Folder 8

Sub-series 3 : Personal finances and miscellaneous personal material

Title/Description	Instances
Personal cashbook, 1860-1868	Box 1 Folder 9
Journal (with copy of McCrillis's will, 1887, and information about his personal property), 1881-1887	Folder Ledger
Taxes, 1874-187	Folder 10
Taxes due, Wm. McCrillis and estate of Wm. McCrillis, 1873-1890	Folder 11
Taxes paid on townships by late W.H. McCrillis, 1889	Folder 12
Deeds to church pews and Mt. Hope Cemetery lot, 1838-1891	Folder 13
William McCrillis's daily journal, 1883	Folder 14

Sub-series 4 : Records of various business ventures

Title/Description	Instances
Godfrey Falls Dam Co.: records of meetings of stockholders, etc., 1879-1912	Box 1 Folder 15
Heron Lake Dam Co., 1868-1910	Folder 16
Katahdin Dam Co.: act of incorporation, etc., 1871-1885	Folder 17
Katahdin Dam Co.: accounts, etc., 1880-1887	Folder 18
Nickatous Dam Co. and Penobscot Steam Navigation Co., 1846, 1848	Folder 19
Pleasant River Dam Co. - East Branch: acts of incorporation, etc., 1872-1885	Folder 20
Pleasant River Dam Co - East Branch: stockholder information and estimates for improvements, 1885-1890, undated	Folder 21
Pleasant River Dam Co. - East Branch: accounts, agreement for improvements, 1879-1880, 1891	Folder 22

Pleasant River Dam Co. - East Branch: corporate documents, 1880-1913	Folder 23
Pleasant River Dam and Improvement Co.: Copies of Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, September 24 - October 3, 1853	Folder 24
Sheer Boom Improvement Co.: correspondence, corporate documents, 1880-1899	Folder 25

Sub-series 5 : Deeds

Title/Description	Instances
Maine lands, Vol. 1 [Abstracts of titles ... in counties of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset, Hancock, Washington and Penobscot]	Box 1 Folder Ledger
Index to Vol. 1, Maine lands and loose materials from volume	Folder 26
Records: McCrillis: Piscataquis County [copies of deeds]	Folder Ledger
Deeds, 1830-1839	Folder 27
Penobscot County, Bangor, deeds, 1836-1875	Folder 28
Penobscot County, T8, R3, deeds and agreements, 1840, 1844	Folder 29
Miscellaneous deeds, 1840-1875	Folder 30
Penobscot County, Orrington, William Kendall, deed, 1841	Folder 31
Penobscot County, Hermon, deeds, 1841, 1843	Folder 32
Piscataquis County, Kilmarnock, deeds, 1841, 1850	Folder 33
Penobscot County, misc. deeds, 1844-1877	Folder 34
Penobscot County, Orono, deed, 1845	Folder 35
Miscellaneous deeds, mortgages, etc., 1845-1883	Folder 36
Aroostook County, misc. deeds, etc., 1850-1859	Folder 37
Aroostook County, T13, R15, deed, 1851	Folder 38
Penobscot County, T10, R13, deed, 1851	Folder 39
Penobscot County, T7, R6, deed, 1852	Folder 40
Penobscot County, T10, R9, deed, 1852	Folder 41
Penobscot County, T12, R8, deed, 1852	Folder 42
Aroostook County, T2, R4, deeds, 1852, 1859	Folder 43
Penobscot County, Old Town, deeds, 1852-1880	Folder 44
Aroostook County, T14, R15, deed, 1853	Folder 45
Penobscot County, T1, R7, deed, 1853	Folder 46

McCrillis and Griswold, deeds, etc., 1854-1915	Folder 47
Deeds, etc., 1860s-1870s	Folder 48
Washington County, Danforth, deed, 1860	Folder 49
Penobscot County, Veazie, deeds, 1861, 1881-1882	Folder 50
Penobscot County, T16, R3, deed, 1863	Folder 51
Penobscot County, Eddington, deed, 1865	Folder 52
Chambers Farm, deeds and other records, 1866	Folder 53
Penobscot County, T4, R8, deed, 1867	Folder 54
Nova Scotia, deeds, 1867, 1869	Folder 55
Miscellaneous deeds, 1867-1880	Folder 56
Piscataquis County, T4, R10, deed, 1868	Folder 57
Old Town, Moore lot, Lake lot no. 4, 1869-1928	Folder 58
Deeds, etc., 1870-1879	Folder 59
Penobscot County, Winn, deed, 1870	Folder 60
Deeds, etc., 1870-1879, 1893	Folder 61
Peleg Jones and J.H. Butler, deeds and papers, 1872-1878	Folder 62
Hancock County, Dedham, deed, 1874	Folder 63
Piscataquis County, Williamsburg, abstract of title, 1883	Folder 64
Deeds and papers from C.H. and R.W. Sawyer to F.A. Wilson, 1889	Folder 65

Sub-series 6 : McCrillis timberlands business

Title/Description	Instances
Lumber book: Account of lumber run by Taylor and Ayer, 1839-1845	Box 2 Folder 1
Report and survey, Lapomkeag Stream, 1848, 1851	Folder 2
Journal re timberlands, 1852-1853	Folder 3
Annual report of the land agent, state of Maine, 1872	Folder 4
Schoodic Lake: water and right to build dam, 1882, 1916	Folder 5
Field notes: N line, B R 11; S line, A R 12, October 1889	Folder 6
Land schedules for Aroostook County, undated	Folder 7
Maps	Folder 8
Aroostook County, T8, R4	Folder 9

Aroostook County, T9, R4	Folder 10
Aroostook County, T9, R4	Folder 11
Aroostook County, T9, R4, Survey and exploration by R. E. Mullaney, 1909	Folder 12
Aroostook County, T12, R8	Folder 13
Aroostook County, T12, R13	Folder 14
Aroostook County, T12, R14, E 1/2	Folder 15
Aroostook County, T12, R14, W 1/2	Folder 16
Aroostook County, T13, R8	Folder 17
Aroostook County, T15, R9	Folder 18
Aroostook County, T15, R9	Folder 19
Aroostook County, T16, R8	Folder 20
Aroostook County, T17, R4	Folder 21
Aroostook County, T18, R10	Folder 22
Aroostook County, T18, R10, Eli Thibodeau	Folder 23
Aroostook County, T18, R10, Eli Thibodeau	Folder 24
Franklin County, T2, R7	Folder 25
Penobscot County, T2, R8, N 1/2	Folder 26-29
Penobscot County, T3, R1	Folder 30
Penobscot County, T5, R6, Mount Chase	Folder 31-33
Penobscot County, T5, R7, S 1/2, W.E.L.S.	Folder 34-35
Penobscot County, T5, R7, S 1/2, W.E.L.S.	Box 3
	Folder 1
Penobscot County, T7, R7	Folder 2-6
Penobscot County, T8, R6, S 1/2	Folder 7
Penobscot County, T8, R7, N 1/2, Sec. No. 9	Folder 8
Penobscot County, T8, R8	Folder 9-10
Piscataquis County, T4, R8, Lake View public lots	Folder 11-17
Waldo County, Codlead March	Folder 18
Piscataquis County, T5, R9; T6, R9; T7, R9	Folder 19-20
Piscataquis County, T5, R15	Folder 21
Piscataquis County, T9, T10	Folder 22
Piscataquis County, TA, R11; TB, R11	

	Folder 23-25
Piscataquis County, TA, R12, S 1/2	Folder 26
Piscataquis County, TA, R12, S 1/2, public lots	Folder 27
Piscataquis County, TA2, R13; TA2, R14, Baker Mt. tract	Folder 28
Piscataquis County, TA2, R13, TA2, R14, public lots	Folder 29
Piscataquis, T2, R9, public lot	Folder 30
Piscataquis County, TB, R11	Folder 31-33
Somerset County, NW 1/4, T3, R3, N.B.K.P.	Folder 34
Somerset County, T5, R4	Folder 35
Somerset County, T7, R16	Folder 36-37
Somerset County, T10, R16	Folder 38

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Series II: Papers of heirs of William H. McCrillis

Sub-series 1 : Business Records

Title/Description	Instances
Cuts for the season, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis Counties	Box 4 Folder 1
Records relating to Mrs. Sarah J. Baker's claim, N 1/2, T2, R8, 1899-1903	Folder 2
Road repair tax: Aroostook County [printed pamphlet], 1904	Folder 3
Amounts of wood cut in various townships, 1905-1917	Folder Ledger
Agreement, Wabash, Pittsburgh Terminal Railway Company, 1908	Folder 4
Letter to J.H. McGowan, 1910	Folder 5
Correspondence, legal documents, etc., of Henry Prentiss, 1900-1912	Folder 6
Business papers of Henry Prentiss, 1916-1931	Folder 7
Deeds of Henry Prentiss	Folder 8
Deeds and papers of Henry Prentiss	Folder 9-10
Deeds, E.E. Ring Land Co., 1914-1932	Folder 11-12
McCrillis Timberlands records, 1982-1983	Folder 13

Sub-series 2 : Papers of Harriet Griswold

Title/Description	Instances
Deed, 1859	Folder 14
Schedules of land owned by Mrs. Harriet S. Griswold, 1891, 1903	Folder 15
Account records, re estate of Harriet Griswold, 1912-1918	Folder 16
Journal, income and expenses, estate of Harriet Griswold, 1911-1918	Folder 16a
Bonds, estate of Harriet Griswold	Folder 17-18
Deeds, plans, notes, Penobscot, Aroostook, Piscataquis Counties	Folder 19
Griswold estate income figures, May 16, 1932	Folder 20
Income tax returns, estate of Harriet Griswold, 1913-1916	Folder 21-23
Income tax return; stumpage since 1900, 1917	Folder 24
Letter from Merrill Griswold to Robert Sawyer (re estate of Harriet Griswold), 1917	Folder 25
Income tax returns, estate of Harriet Griswold, 1817-1918	Folder 26

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